

Remarks

A further copy of the formal drawings is submitted herewith along with a letter to the Official Draftsman.

The allowance of claims 12-22 and 34-46 is noted with appreciation.

Claims 1 and 23 have been amended to more particularly define the invention. In particular, the Examiner will note from reading the specification that when a failure occurs in the signaling link or port occurs, connection release messages are propagated toward the source or destination nodes over the remaining portion of the signaling link. The invention addresses the problem arising in the prior art that these are not sent in any particular order, and as a result less important connections can get released before connections of greater priority.

If the failure occurs on the destination side of the node, the connection release messages from the node are propagated toward the source node over the remaining operational portion of signaling link in an order that depends on the priority indicators, and if the failure occurs on the source side, the connection release messages are propagated over the remaining operational portion of the signaling link on the destination side in an order that depends on the priority indicators toward the destination.

Neither Ogura nor Hermman discusses the propagation of connection release messages over the remaining portion of the signaling link, and the sending out of these messages in a sequence which depends on the priority indicator

Ogura discusses the re-establishment of connections following failure of a link, not the *release* of connections *per se*, in an order that depends on priority indicators. Ogura does not teach the propagation of release messages over a signaling link.

Hermman teaches that when a failure is detected in a network node, a message containing information about the defect is transmitted to all other network nodes involved. One way of detecting the defect is for the control arrangement is to note the loss of signaling cells. However, a combination of Ogura and Hermman does not result in the arrangement now claimed wherein connection release messages are propagated in an order that depends on priority. Neither Ogura nor Hermman even teaches the sending of connection release messages in the event of a failure.

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It is believed that this application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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